

SMILES Working Group 5 Meeting and Policy Workshop

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS FOR ENHANCING SMALL-MEDIUM ISLANDS RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Friday, 29th September 2023, University College Dublin, School of Architecture Planning and Environmental Policy

Venue

UCD Student Centre, **Red Room**

University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Dublin

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Wbz44jrCQrZ8pF7K6>

Zoom Meeting:

<https://ucd-ie.zoom.us/j/69237698078?pwd=ajVGaHRrVjg0Sy8xall0WnlCRXhvdz09>

Background and Aim

The workshop is the first engaging activity of the **Policy and Governance Working Group** of the [COST Action ENHANCING SMALL-MEDIUM ISLANDS RESILIENCE BY SECURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES \(SMILES\)](#). The Working Group aims to review the major policy instruments at the EU and national levels that reflect island sensitivity and contribute to building future island resilience and providing recommendations on policy instruments' improvement with special emphasis on the multi-governance approach. Local specificities and needs of Small-Medium Islands (SMIs) are mainly neglected in policy objectives and natural resources are managed on the basis of policies designed at the national, regional or even global level. In addition to the policy objectives of European Directives (i.e. Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats and Birds Directive) and global policy frameworks such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, European islands need to address highly relevant local priorities, which are vital for the well-being of island systems. The workshop aims to explore the policy challenges and existing instruments for addressing socio-ecological vulnerabilities in EU SMIs and to identify potential knowledge gaps.

Workshop Objectives

- Presenting the SMILES COST Action and the Policy and Governance Working Group
- Sharing good practices on resilience and sustainability of small and medium Islands
- Discussing the state-of-the-art knowledge on policy instruments, drivers of changes, and resilience issues on small-medium islands in the EU and global context

- Identifying knowledge gaps and research needs on policy instruments, drivers of changes, and resilience issues on small-medium islands in the EU context.
- To foster networking and collaboration among researchers, working on small-medium islands in the EU and global context

Guiding Research Questions

Q1. What are the main socio-ecological vulnerabilities in SMIs

Q2. What are the main existing policy instruments to address vulnerability challenges and enhance socio-ecological resilience to climate change and land use in SMIs paying attention to their specific sensitivity at the EU and national level?

Q3. What are the main policy actors at the different scales, and if and how they collaborate or coordinate to address socio-ecological vulnerability challenges?

Format and Agenda

The meeting will be held both face to face in Dublin and online via Zoom platform. The workshop will consist of the following sessions:

10:00-10:30 – Welcome Tea and Coffee

Morning Session – Meeting WG 5 (10:30 -13:00):

10:30-10:45 - Introduction

- The SMILES COST Action and the Policy and Governance Working Group,
Liana Ricci, Catarina Fonseca, Peter Mackelworth

10:45-11:30 - Presentation from members of the COST Action

- Land use, climate changes and data analytics
Aristides Moustakas, Natural History Museum of Crete (Lead SMILES WG 3)
- Sus: An Urban Sustainability Explorer for Montreal
Hossein Chavoshi, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

11:30-11:45 - Coffee Break

11:45-12:45 - Presentation from members of the COST Action

- Climate change economics and policy
Sonia Quiroga, José Alejandro Fernández, Haoran Wang, Complutense University of Madrid
- Wellbeing benefits of Cultural Ecosystem services in small islands
Eirini Gallou, University of Strathclyde (on-line)

12:45- 13:45 – Coffee Break

Afternoon Session – Roundtable (13:45-16:00):

13:45 - 15:00 - Roundtable to discuss Q1, Q2 and Q3

15:00 – 16:00 Conclusion and way forward

- Summarize the main findings and recommendations from the roundtable discussion
- Identify the knowledge gaps and research needs for advancing the understanding of Policy and governance frameworks to management of socio-ecological vulnerability in SMIs
- Identity next steps to address some of the research gaps within WG5 some possible actions and policy implications for improving the resilience and sustainability of SMIs.

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